

# THE MCGILL DAILY

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Thursday, October 25, 1990

## environment supplement

### Cree say James Bay is illegal

Forget for a moment what you've heard environmentalists, economists, conservationists and Cree spokespeople say about the dangers of the James Bay hydroelectric project. Cree lawyer James O'Reilly has an argument that could actually stop James Bay: he thinks it's illegal.

by Megan Parry

O'Reilly intends to prove the provincial and federal governments have broken the 1975 James Bay agreement not just once, but many times.

Previously, environmentalists have argued further James Bay development may destroy the ecosystem of northern Québec. Conservationists have said Canadians should learn to reduce our energy demands, not rely on energy mega-projects.

Economists have explained that Hydro Québec's \$62 billion debt, to be incurred over the next ten years, makes no economic sense. And the Cree have argued that further development in northern Québec will destroy their way of life.

But legal weight has more clout than moral authority in modern Canada, so O'Reilly's new approach packs a real punch.

"Since the government is acting as though the deal is off, then we're saying okay, the deal is off," said O'Reilly.

O'Reilly is currently pleading before the courts that the 1975 James Bay agreement infringes on Cree aboriginal and treaty rights. He is contesting the notion that the Cree ever gave up rights to their land and its resources for the Hydro project.

The Cree believe no powers should be given to the province of Québec for further hydro development until the government fulfills the obligations outlined in the original agreement.

But Hydro Québec spokesperson Marie Archambault said, "From our point of view, that agreement is still valid. No laws have been broken."

Matthew Mukash, a member of the Grand Council of the Cree, insists that according to the 1912 Québec Boundaries Act, the Cree must be consulted on any land development projects which involve Cree territory in northern Québec.

The Shawanigan Water and Power Co. began examining the hydroelectric potential of James Bay in 1950 and were joined in 1964 by Hydro Québec. But, "we didn't hear anything about it until 1971," said Mukash.

Hélène Lajambe, an economist with the Centre for Energy Policy Analysis in Montreal, agrees. "The Cree were dealt with as though they didn't even exist. They were never advised of what would happen to them. There is an extremely important human rights issue here."

Lajambe founded the Society to Overcome Pollution (STOP) in 1971. Upset that the interests of the Cree were being ignored, she then brought Cree and Hydro Québec

representatives together. Lajambe said it was the first meeting between the two groups. Meanwhile, bulldozers were already at work in northern Québec.

#### James Bay deal disrespected

O'Reilly was involved in the original 1975 James Bay Agreement. Supporters of the hydro project argue that this agreement was the best deal any Native group ever signed.

But O'Reilly said the Cree had no alternative but to sign. They felt that a signed agreement was better than no agreement, and it gave them at least some control over their land. "They were trying to protect themselves, their way of life," said O'Reilly.

With the James Bay Agreement, the Cree felt the government had made a fundamental promise to preserve their way of life. "The Cree hoped everyone had learned their lesson. It seems twenty years later, no one in the government has learned anything. They haven't respected the deal. Had the agreement been implemented in spirit, we wouldn't be having this battle," said O'Reilly.

However, Jeanine Beaubien, spokesperson for the Provincial Ministry of Energy, said the interests of the Cree haven't been ignored - hydro development in Québec is in everyone's interests.

"We're investing in Québec's future," she said, referring to Québec's \$62 billion stake in the project.

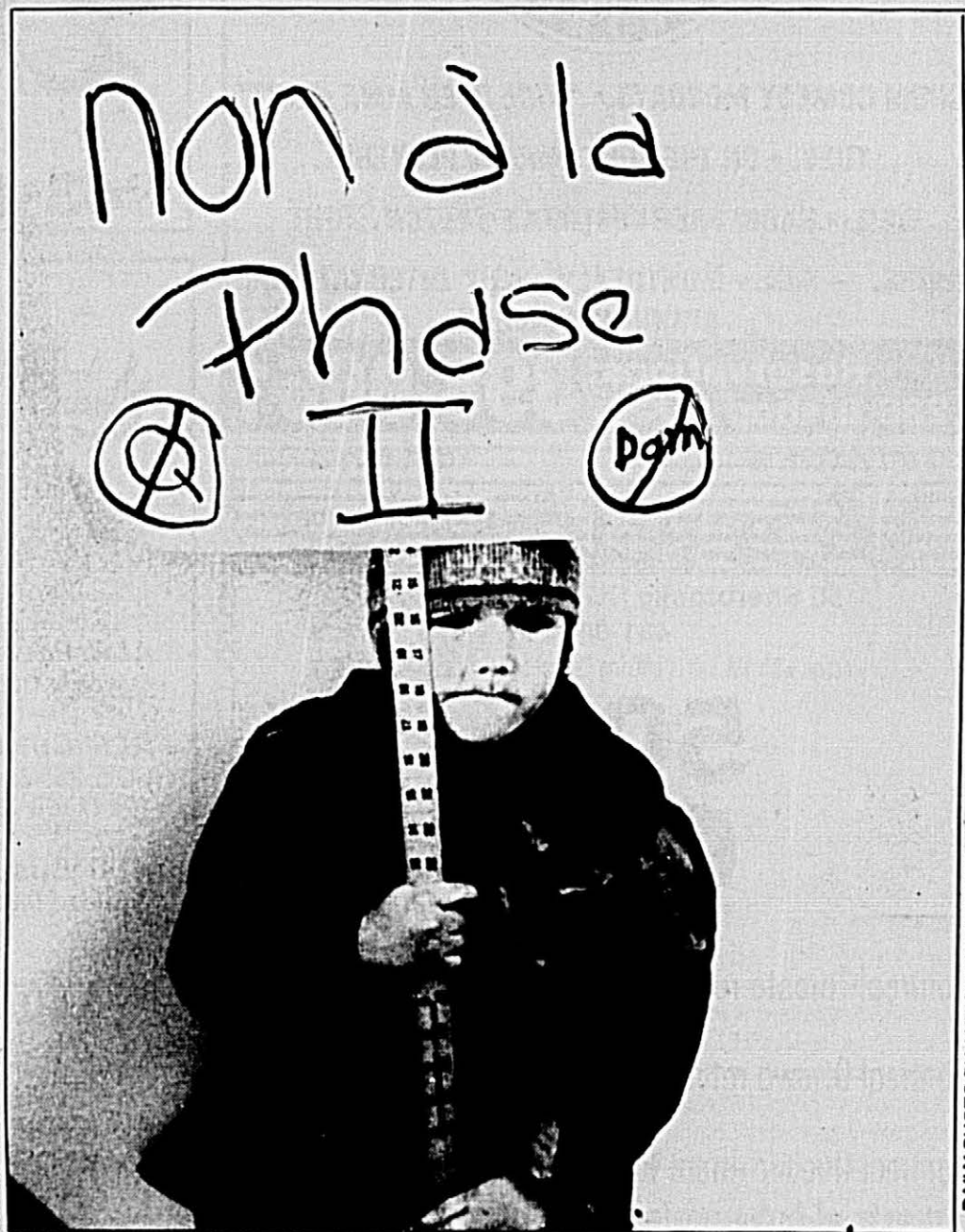
Opposition to the next phase of Québec hydro development, the Grande Baleine and Nottaway-Broadback-Rupert (NBR), is focussing on the upcoming public environmental hearings.

No hearings were held for the original James Bay hydro construction. "There was no requirement for an environmental study in the original James Bay agreement," said Archambault.

Since then, according to Beaubien, Québec Hydro has done \$50 million worth of environmental impact studies. Where are the findings from those studies? "Confidential. We need a directive from the Ministry of the Environment to make this public. The ball is in their court," said Beaubien.

But Danielle Paré, press attaché to Québec environment minister Pierre Paradis, said, "It is not our department who decides when this will be discussed. We received this information a month ago." Paré claimed the office of Premier Bourassa is causing the delay.

Paré said all levels of government are in agreement on the objectives of the Grande Baleine and NBR, but not on the procedure.



DAILY PHOTO BY ANTHONY SOUTHAM

A young Cree protests Hydro-Québec's ecologically dangerous James Bay expansion, which may violate legal Cree treaty rights.

The federal government wants an overall environmental impact study before any construction begins. But Paradis has proposed splitting the hearings into two parts - infrastructure and the dams, each to be examined separately.

#### Cree want more time

By proposing this, the provincial government can avoid re-opening the original James Bay Agreement. This will speed up the process, said Paré, and "no one wants any more delay."

No one except the Cree. "The more delay we can cause, the more people we can reach in that time. By proposing to alter the environmental impact hearings, the government broke the terms of the James Bay Agreement," said Mukash.

Mukash fears that if the infrastructure and hydro issue are given separate hearings, the Cree cause may be lost. Mukash feels it would be ridiculous to look at the issue of road-building separately.

"Of course roads don't cause very much damage to the environment. Why wouldn't it be approved? And once their roads are approved, they can start construction on the dams," said Mukash.

"Besides," Mukash continued, "we've heard Bourassa say he's going to go ahead with the project in spite of the fact that there has been no environmental impact assessment. Why is he breaking the law?"

Greenpeace's Bernard Cantin, currently campaigning against Hydro Québec's proposed development projects, also wants more time. "The environmental effects of the James Bay project are mainly unknown. No one has studied those effects except Hydro Québec," he said.

"We are saying we should wait until we know the implications and effects of James Bay before we go ahead with more development."

Lajambe agreed. "Hydro Québec should not hide behind commercial secrecy. I think Hydro itself is not convinced it should go ahead with the project. We would all benefit from a public debate."

What will happen at this point is uncertain. Whether public hearings will be held before construction or during construction is not yet decided. Whether environmental impact of infrastructure and hydro dams will be examined separately is another question. There is considerable doubt as to whether environmental impact hearings will be held at all.

Ultimately, the futures of hydro development and the Cree in Québec will be decided in the courts. O'Reilly speculated the Cree have a fifty per cent chance of stopping the Grande Baleine project, and an even better chance at stopping NBR construction.

And considering the history of Native land rights issues, O'Reilly said, "Those are very good odds."



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# Groups to take green action

by Eli Malus

Action Montréal Vert has scheduled a demonstration October 27th at Carre St. Louis at 11h30 to protest the lack of door to door recycling in the city. In a recent action residents, angry that there was no recycling available in their area, dumped garbage on the steps of city hall.

Montréal lags far behind other cities across Canada and Action Montréal Vert wants the admini-

stration to move faster in implementing their master plan to recycle waste rather than attempting to solve the problem through incineration.

"They are looking for a technological solution to a societal problem," says Aaron Freeman, one of the organizers. According to Freeman, recycling itself is only one step in increasing waste reduction and incineration only shifts the problem into the air and water.

Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) is lobbying for a five year moratorium on incinerators so as to allow a market for recycling to develop, according to Freeman. He says privately owned incinerators in the U.S. compete with recycling firms for the same waste, pointing to one case in which they sued a municipality that introduced recycling.

The organizers say grassroots support is important. All those

concerned are urged to attend, in green clothes.

## Preserving the rainforest

Friends of the Rainforest Montréal (FoRM) currently have a booth set up in the lobby of Concordia's Hall Building to bring the plight of rainforests to the attention of students. They will show videos from noon to 17h30 today and Friday dealing with Rainforest preservation. In addition to these videos,

Eva Johnson, from the Kahnawake Environmental Protection Committee, will speak today at 16h on Native Issues, the Environment and Politics.

FoRM has also planned a demonstration for Friday at noon in front of Complex Desjardins, protesting Mitsubishi's continued involvement in logging operations in tropical countries.

## QPIRG tackles the McGill wasteland

by Daron Westman

The Student Union Building produces an average of four tons of waste every day - six tons on busy days. One hundred and ten million sheets of paper go through the McGill photocopiers and printing services every year.

Dealing with waste produced on campus is the mandate of the McGill University Waste Management and Recycling Coordinating Group, a joint committee founded late last semester with participation from the waste management sectors of the administration, Students' Society, and the Québec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG).

The mandate includes disposing of medical and biological waste, recycling non-organic wastes and possibly composting organic wastes from the cafeterias, and developing the paper recycling program.

The most fully developed is the paper recycling program, originally launched as a QPIRG project in 1989.

Since then, the program was taken over by the University, but was later suspended because of difficulties ensuring that the paper was being collected by the contractors.

"McGill has now begun to shift to an in-house approach with University employees and University trucks handling the paper," said Aaron Freeman of QPIRG. "This should ensure the long-term stability the program needs if it is to flourish and expand."

While newspapers were in-

cluded in 1989, the current program is for ordinary paper only, due to the dearth of de-inking plants.

In the meantime, other campus groups are finding the pace of the Coordinating Group too slow and are looking at ways to set up their own programs.

"The Engineering Undergraduate Society keeps asking me when the University's recycling program is going to be ready to handle newspapers," said Debbie Pentesco, SSMU VP University Affairs. "They say they'll set up their own program if the University takes too long."

For now, the Coordinating Group is looking at ways to encourage the reduction of newspaper production on campus. Both the Tribune and the Daily currently produce 16 000 copies per issue.

"Both papers realize that many of these copies are never read and that their print runs should be reduced," Freeman said.

Both papers are members of newspaper associations which solicit ads at the national level, with the cost of the ad depending on the circulation of the newspaper.

As it stands now, a drop from sixteen thousand copies would mean a significant decrease in ad revenue. Each paper agreed to ask its national association to seek a policy change this fall.

## Increasing demand

The recycling program hopes to increase use of recycled paper at McGill. Increasing consumer

demand could stimulate further development of the recycling industry.

The University has already agreed to use recycled paper for regular McGill envelopes. All paper used in the printing service and the photocopiers will be made from paper that is 5-10% post-consumer.

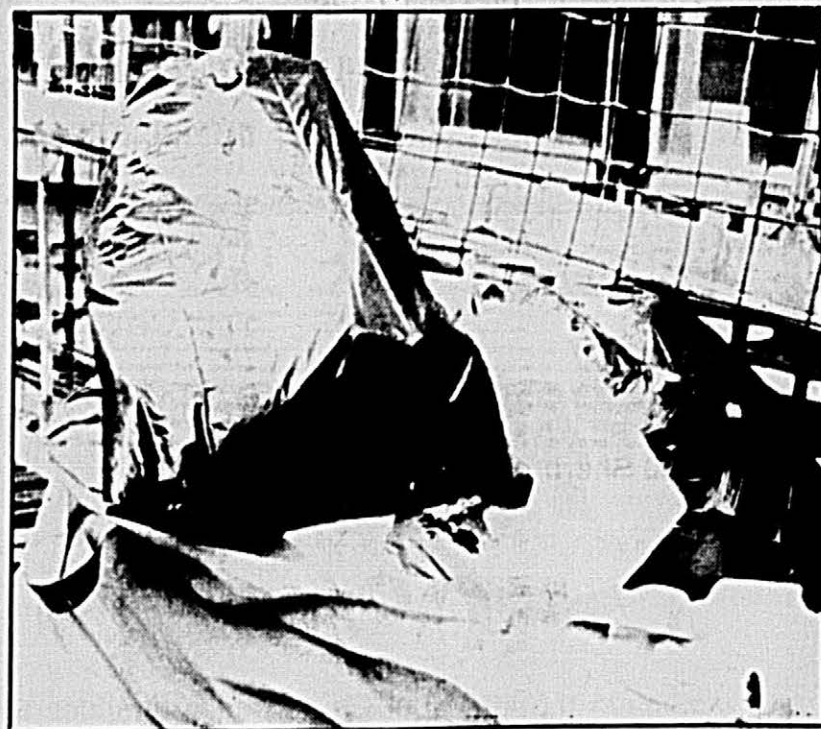
Projects developed by the Coordinating Group continue to come from student input. Now that recycling seems well-established on campus, a major concern of Freeman, and of the QPIRG Waste Management Project he coordinates, is reduction of paper consumption.

"All environmental problems boil down to the avoidance or reduction of waste," says Freeman. Reducing can be harder than recycling, because it requires people to substantially change their behaviour, but it's the only answer in the long run."

QPIRG is currently working with the Coordinating Group to design a sticker for campus photocopy machines reminding users to make copies only when necessary, make double-side copies and reduce the size to fit two pages in one.

Freeman has also spoken to the SSMU executive about support for a policy to discourage student groups from using glossy paper in posters and from posterizing excessively.

"We already have a policy against SSMU clubs taping posters to the ground of the campus," says SSMU president Kate Morisset.



DAILY PHOTO: ELEANOR LEE

"QPIRG's other suggestions will be passed on to our council's club reps who are working on a policy to encourage paper recycling and the reduction of paper use."

Students' Society is initiating other waste reduction and recycling projects which it hopes the Coordinating Group will take up. "By Christmas we should have a Food Services proposal for recycling glass, plastic and tin cans," said Morisset. "By then the environmental audit of the Union building should be well under way."

The environmental audit, under the supervision of VP internal Joanna Wedge, is a major undertaking to survey the environmental impact of Union Building activities and to make recommendations to SSMU Council.

"What scares me," says Wedge, "are the problems we know nothing about. This environmental audit is one way in which SSMU can take the lead in our own building and set an example."

SSMU and QPIRG are also exploring the possibility of developing a composting project on the downtown campus. "There's an excellent composting program at Macdonald College, and a McGill truck from the paper recycling program already runs out to Macdonald to pick up their paper," said Freeman. "It may be possible to have that truck carry compost material out to Macdonald."

Freeman says the Coordinating Group could be faster but he is satisfied with progress so far.

"This is proving to be a very effective committee, because it brings together all the important people from the different departments of the University who need to be involved," he said.

"Often what has been lacking in the past has been the political will to do something about the problems, but the Coordinating Group is a very good way of organizing the different parts of the University into coordinated action."

## Getting quick cash out of trash

by Dan Robins

The world is a cesspool, and there's a lot of money in hauling away the cess, according to the investment firm McNeil Mantha, Inc.

The waste management industry experienced a growth of almost 900% between 1982 and 1989.

The McNeil Green Report, issued monthly by McNeil Mantha, contains advice to pump up investment potential for companies that want to sell themselves as 'environmentally-concerned'. Investing

money with a clear conscience was never easier.

The report states, "We believe that knowledge of the environmental side of the story is now necessary in order to outperform the market."

What with increasing government regulation and public pressure, big business is going to want to clean up after themselves, and they're going to have to pay someone to do it for them.

Environmentalism is a big industry. In 1989, the solid waste

industry alone made up 1.1% of GNP, and is expected to rise to 1.7% by 1992.

The theory is that "the companies that are developing new technologies and innovative methods of dealing with and treating the effects of environmental damage will be at the forefront of everyone's attention in the next few years."

That is, getting the garbage out of people's backyards is a growth industry. But to move all that cess, you need lots of money - and that's where you as a future eco-market-

eer come in.

If you're putting together your portfolio, consider companies involved in being friends with the environment. You can help save the world and make some money at the same time.

For example, if you had bought some shares of Mid-American Waste Systems, Inc., when they went on sale to the public at U.S. \$24 in May, by August you would have made more than a 150% profit.

However, you can't just pick a waste management venture at ran-

dom, assuming it's going to be profitable. You have to pick and choose. Landfill will continue as the main disposal method, and incineration is also a good bet - its use is expected to double in the next ten years.

On the other hand, recycling is much more risky. "The markets for metal, paper, plastic and composted material are extremely fragmented and very localized," says the report.

So c'mon - do it for the environment.



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# Earth First!, logic last?

*Green Rage and the Unmaking of Civilization*

by Christopher Manes.

Little-Brown, 1990.

291 pages, \$23.95.

by Noah Quastel

Famed ex-Greenpeace and Sea Shepherd leader Paul Watson once called Earth First! "the army" of Mother Earth. Earth First! has gained a reputation for sabotaging wilderness encroachment in North America, but its underlying theories gain far less attention.

Long-time activist Christopher Manes, once associate editor of the journal *Earth First!*, has played a prominent role in articulating the philosophy of radical environmentalism. An expert on the policies, theories and affairs of the U.S. branch of the Earth First! movement, he has compiled his extensive knowledge of this "new cultural force" in *Green Rage and the Unmaking of Civilization*.

To place Earth First! in historical perspective, Manes gives a detailed account of the rise, the success, and the ultimate failure of the mainstream, reformist environmental movement.

Manes claims the heyday of the reformist movement was in the Earth Day celebrations of 1970, at a time when there was little radicalism in the movement. New Left and anti-Vietnam War groups boycotted on the grounds that the celebrations were a distraction from the real problems of the day.

Manes says that "the early conservationist movement was a child of the Establishment" and the WASP membership of the large reformist groups was unwilling to talk of the societal changes necessary to properly preserve the world's ecosystems against continuing human encroachment. Environmentalism was an administrative problem, involving little more than the creation and codification of environmental laws.

In the following decade, the growing use of federal courts demanded more and more professionals, and the heads of the large organizations increasingly were trained lawyers. The headquarters of the Audubon Society and The Sierra Club were moved to Washington, and thus became little more than well-paid lobby groups. They had withdrawn into middle class respectability and failed to address the fundamental problems.

Born of a combined disenchantment with the slow reformism of the mainstream movement, and concern for society's destructive tenets, Earth First! was co-founded in 1981 by Dave Foreman, Mike Roselle, Howie Wolke, Ron Kezar, and Bart Kochler.

Manes quotes Foreman as saying that "the people who started Earth First! decided there was a need for a radical wing that would make the Sierra Club look moderate. Someone has to say what needs to be said and do what needs to be done, to take the kinds of strong actions... to dramatize it."

At first, the emphasis was on taking action, effecting change by making the mainstream look reasonable. Over time they developed their own brand of radical philosophy, in response to perceptibly worsening conditions through the eighties.

According to Howie Wolke, "Earth First!'s proposals and tactics make sense... Who gives a damn if a bureaucrat thinks we're unrealistic? In a world where it is possible that Homo Sapiens will drive nearly half the species on the planet to extinction by early in the twenty-first century, the Earth First! whole-ecosystem approach to land preservation is the ONLY approach that really makes sense."

No compromise

Earth First! is characterized not merely by

a disrespect for law, but for private property as well. With the slogan, "No compromise in defense of Mother Earth," Earth First!'s activities can range from illegal logging stoppages to damage of equipment, or 'ecotage'.

Foreman has written and published a manual, *Ecodefense*, with instructions on 'monkey-wrenching', the destruction of industrial machinery for environmental and wilderness preservation. These activities include tree-sitting, siltation (the pouring of abrasives into fuel tanks "to turn any internal combustion engine into an expensive boat anchor"), desurveying (blowing up logging roads) and tree spiking, perhaps Earth First!'s most contentious program.

Much of *Green Rage* is taken up by accounts of the activities of Earth First! - their various campaigns, their successes in the preservation of wilderness, and their problems in the environmental movement and with the American government. Manes also discusses the "surlly symbiosis" of Earth First! with mainstream movements, and their line on civil disobedience.

His discussion of the pro-industry tactics of the Republican regime in "the Natural Resource State" point to an anti-environmental police state in construction. When the forestry service bans all nonindustry employees from key wilderness areas where logging is scheduled it seems that an ideological affiliation is developing.

(Manes also gives a clear and lucid account of radical environmental movements in Australia and Europe, but fails to mention anything here in Canada out of what can only be American chauvinism.)

More problematic is Manes's discussion of the theoretical basis of Earth First! The group represents the most radical wing of Deep Ecology, and much of Manes's book is an argument outlining the need for a new cultural paradigm, the 'unmaking' of civilization itself.

Manes claims that Deep Ecology is more a sensibility than a philosophy, unwilling to reduce all of the natural world to theorems or propositions. The fundamental tenet of Deep Ecology is biocentrism: the extension of rights to entire ecosystems.

Relying heavily on the writings of George Sessions and Bill Devall, Manes outlines their defence of biocentrism through such ideas as 'the ecological self' (the belief that the ecosystem is integral to sense of identity) and criticism of technology.

Technology, Deep Ecologists feel, portrays existence as a standing reserve of raw material, and totalizes existence on the axis of utility. Civilization uses technology to dominate nature, and this domination is integral to all civilizations, they say.

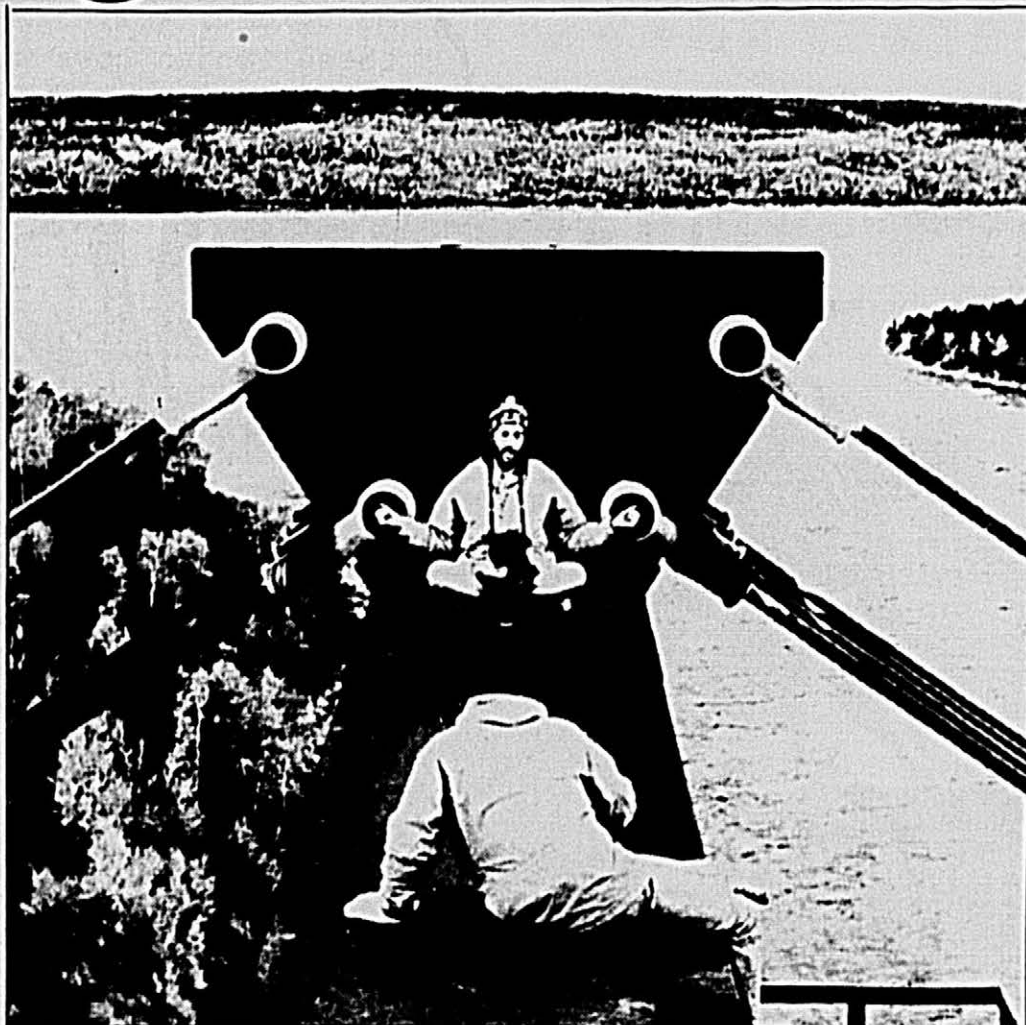
Manes supports this claim with an environmental explanation of historical change, in which transition and empire building are attributed to environmental degradation. He says this results from the modes of production on which all civilizations are dependent, unlike hunting-fishing societies.

Manes sees civilization as the drive towards 'progress' out of the external and internal chaos of nature. When rights and value are extended to the natural world, he says, the antagonism between civilization and nature must be resolved in nature's favour.

## Wilderness vs. a reconstructed Earth

Wilderness has become the focal point of Earth First!, and much of their political activism is focused on the preservation of, and exclusion of human activity from, the remaining wilderness areas in the Western United States.

Manes says the value of wilderness is in the fact that humanity can see the world in its



DAILY PHOTO BY ANTHONY SOUTHAM

Manes's book provides a vantage-point on eco-terrorism.

natural state, and people can remove themselves from the inevitable separation from nature that civilization entails. Wilderness allows the deconstruction of ideologies, and the possibility of release from the power structures and domination of society over individuals.

Without wilderness, he says, we are left with the complete reconstruction of the Earth by humanity, and the absence of a world outside of ourselves.

Manes's arguments suffer from a failure to separate internal human nature from external nature, and the result is a shameless romanticism. This romanticism is a basis for a program of societal change of immense proportions, calling not only for a 'change in lifestyle' but for an end to industrial systems.

Hunter and gatherer societies become the new ideal towards which our society should aspire, and Manes is openly receptive to and appreciative of calls for primitivism. Knowing that the current size of the population cannot be maintained with such an economic system, he readily admits that a reduction in world population would be necessary.

Though Manes admits that Earth First!'s extreme ideals should be seen as aims more to move towards than to reach, their general anti-humanism has resulted in an onslaught of attacks on Earth First! from critics calling them fascists and terrorists.

Manes defends his compatriots on the simple grounds that biocentrism must come into conflict with a humanistic ethical system. Nature-dominating humanism is exactly what Earth First! is reacting against.

On the related issue of tree spiking, his defence consists of a gloss of the ethics involved - it is enough, he says, that activists do not intend to harm others. Destruction of equipment is defended as self-defence (of the ecological self), or on a utilitarian evaluation of the benefits or harms of such actions. By making these weak arguments, Manes avoids a full discussion of the possible ethical justifications for Earth First!'s actions.

The extension of rights to ecosystems is a possible way of introducing biocentric values into our society, but any discussion of 'rights' entails a treatment of liberal ethics that Manes notably omits. Instead, he claims

that "the significance of radical environmentalism does not lie in some jaundiced... philosophy." Deep Ecology, he says, is a sensibility for action rather than a logical system.

Manes's position is a grand culmination of the 'we must change our attitude to nature' school of environmentalism, and only seems to offer an ill-defined end to civilization (and presumably to all of its benefits) as its solution.

Manes fails to acknowledge that past civilizations have had more benign views of nature without better environmental practice. His whole approach ignores the mechanisms by which our society can change to a more ecological system, and it is on this point that his argument ultimately fails.

The concept of organizing people into cities, namely civilization, need not itself be ecologically harmful. The tools of production and distribution, namely technology, have no magical qualities of their own that determine the values and actions of their users.

Any answer to biological meltdown must rest just as much in a diagnosis of the methods of production and distribution that characterize industrial societies as on the prevalent beliefs of those societies.

Effective change may be dependent on mass will, but knowing the technical and scientific facts of environmental deterioration may well be enough to motivate a majority of the population. Once a mass will is established, a very real program is needed, one that takes social organization into account.

Manes begins with a firm premise, that of extending human value to the non-human natural world, and an honest intent, that of preserving wilderness for its own sake, and stopping environmental deterioration. And his account of the environmental movement provides a valuable record of Earth First!'s activities.

But these are not sufficient to excuse a weak and derivative argument (one which is incidentally full of name dropping) that quite possibly does harm to what is otherwise a valid endeavour: the protection of wilderness areas without compromise to corporate business concerns.





## Activists devise sustainable farming

by Heather MacKay

As Canadian farms disappear into a growing number of negative entries in bank books, farmers and other thinkers have begun collaborating on projects somewhat unfamiliar to conventional soils. Québec may be leading the pack in Canada, thanks in part to the Ecological Agriculture Project and its director Stuart Hill.

Hill is an entomologist who says he specializes in two types of bugs: the familiar insect sort, and the human sort. He has written papers orating sustainable food systems to come of human transformation and new ways of thinking about technology.

The *Daily* caught up to Hill sometime between his return from a conference in Hawaii and tomorrow's plane to Banff where he is helping write a book on the future of the Prairies.

"People have no idea the degree to which they're out of touch," he said, speaking of the multi-million person city as an unprecedented experiment. He calls city life 'addictive', pointing to its reliance on a non-renewable resource-based lifestyle.

The EAP occupies a basement room on Macdonald College campus, housing the largest library on ecological agriculture in the world, according to Hill. Encircling the centre is a network of farms and farmers gathering information on alternative farming methods.

Jacques Nault is involved in the EAP's

participatory on-farm research with a group of seven farms located in the La Montérégie area southwest of Montréal. He says the group is moving away from a top-down approach to a collaborative one in concert with local producers.

### Potentials organic and human

"We're looking for new teaching material and a new way to teach it," he said. By material he refers to organic practices. The methods of teaching link up with Hill's ideas of human potential.

"Farmers don't usually talk to each other," said Hill. To get beyond lack of communication, Hill offers 'workshops' where he brings together farmers to confront the constraints and excesses of conventional agriculture.

Nault's seven farm project began with a workshop last January. Forty-five farmers were contacted through l'Union des producteurs agricoles and 20 showed up at the general discussion meeting. By April the group was focusing on techniques that best suited their own farms.

The cash crop farms experimented with lower rates of fertilizer use than recommended. Dairy producers supplemented corn silage with soya and worked with green manures.

Nault said they are now gathering the results which will be presented at a final workshop in December. He says participants have seen a "surprisingly good rate of success."

Hill says the industry must redesign

farming systems to become more complex. Monocropping and high-input practices should be replaced with broader programs involving efficiency, substitution and a deeper understanding of the planet's limits.

Nault agrees, stressing that the positive results coming out of Québec this summer are above all an incentive to cultivate basic patterns like crop rotation.

"One of the biggest barriers is lack of relevant information," said Nault. He believes the demand for alternative information is strong and growing.

At EAP, Hill underlines the impediments to the implementation of organic methods. He says breakdowns in information transmission, financial constraints, a lack of government support and troubles as simple and as frustrating as the unavailability of 'the right kind of seed' hold back the progress toward sounder practices.

"Both the (political) left and the right are not dealing with the limits of the planet," said Hill. He believes in the empowerment of people beyond state and systemic oppression, he said.

This may send back-to-the-landers tumbling over awkward terrain as they come to terms with what Hill calls the "incredibly stressful" rural environment. But, he says, there will always be "dreamers and doers," and Nault and his collaborators represent the growing body of doers.

## Visionaries

Urban centres like Montréal are both victims and victims of the current ecological crisis. The crisis is global in nature, it is becoming municipal level is a key battleground for action.

BY ANDERS HAYDEN

While Montréal may not be an ecological disaster area on the level of Mexico City, it suffers from some severe environmental problems.

The streets are clogged with polluting, energy-guzzling private vehicles. Toxins in our air, water and food pose a severe threat to health. Acid rain attacks vegetation, architecture and us. The enormous amounts of garbage produced daily create a serious waste management headache.

An unhealthy lack of greenspace also affects Montréalers. Meanwhile uncontrolled expansion of the city gobbles up natural areas and farmland, regurgitating them in the form of suburbia.

Although the task of turning Montréal into a 'green city' seems daunting, Henri Lustiger-Thaler, a Professor of Urban Sociology at Concordia, sees tremendous potential in Montréal. He points to the growing sense of urgency as we realize the need to act quickly to clean up our ecological mess.

Moreover, he points to the long history of community activism in Montréal, adding that traditional concerns such as women's issues, poverty, unemployment, violence and transportation can be integrated into the larger ecological context.

"Ecological issues are absolutely connected to all the other social and economic problems that have plagued this society," says Professor Lustiger-Thaler. The challenge, as he sees it, is to connect ecological and social issues in a new progressive political movement that cares about both the environment and the people in it.

He argues that the agenda for ecological change should come from the grassroots political level and that City Hall should be empowering community groups, extending the frontiers of democracy.

Decentralizing the political process would give communities the chance to tie social and economic issues which concern them into the larger ecological context. He points to Ecology Saint-Henri as an example of a community group which goes beyond the Not-In-My-Backyard syndrome, seeing ecological issues in connexion with community issues.

### Green Transit

One of the most active community groups in Montréal in recent years has been Le monde à bicyclette, which represents the city's cycling community. Bob Silverman, the group's founder and a member of the Center for Alternatives to the Auto (CAA), has long been calling for a major reduction in the use of the private automobile in Montréal.

He says the private car is an environmental villain contributing to air and noise pollution, the greenhouse effect, acid rain, the destruction of urban green-

space, and the uncivilized suburbia.

Silverman, who has been in Montréal since 1967, believes Montréal should keep private automobiles out of the town core. He cites the example of a city with a number of cars per person of 160,000 to 200,000.

"It never ceases to amaze me how many there are," he says, in disbelief as he looks down the crowded Boulevard Saint-Jacques. In addition to the environmental problems, he adds that cars require a lot of city space and do not fit the city. He cites the example of the city of Paris, which has created a lot of space that could be created from cars.

He also points to the example of Berri and St. Catharines. Voyageur terminus, converting into a prime example of a reclaimed green space.

Silverman is aware of the car as a symbol of status. But he questions the notion of the car as progress. "We need states," but not more cars, which is very destructive. We have been operating on the logic of the car for the sake of growth's sake."

Silverman has been promoting a bike path network and bicycles as a serious mode of transport rather than as a recreational activity. He points out, though, that from powerful groups, for example, the Urban Institute of Québec, regional developers, against expansion of work onto de Maisonneuve.

### Car-Free Downtown

Ian Ritchie, co-founder of Montréal and a New Democratic Party election candidate, should promote the alternative. He notes that half of all commuters in Montréal go by bike. Meanwhile, California has passed legislation for employment incentives for bicycle commuting.

Ritchie notes that pollution is due to the car, he adds, "the pollution caused by the car in the last decade."

Ritchie proposes to close off the downtown area to automobiles, with transit, bicycles, and



# is dream of greening Montréal

contributors to  
s. Although the  
clear that the  
for ecological

controlled expansion of

no had his last car in  
Montréal should strive to  
mobility out of the down-  
town core. Bologna, Italy as an  
example that has reduced the  
number of cars in the city core  
by 7,000.

It is to amaze me how  
Ritchie says with disgust and  
looks at the cars which  
fill the streets. In ad-  
dition to the environmental damage, he  
notes the enormous amounts  
of money spent to destroy the ambience of  
the city. Prince Arthur Street as  
a pleasant urban space  
is being lost by taking space back

to the parking lot at  
St. Catherine, across from the  
Métro station, which the City is  
turning into a public park. This is a  
private car space being  
taken back for people.

are that many still see  
the car as a status and progress.  
Whether the proliferation  
of cars represents real  
development, he  
notes that motorized development  
is destructive. He adds that  
the city is operating under "the ideol-  
ogy of the car - growth for

worked for a complete  
transformation that would recognize  
the car as a means of transport  
and a recreational vehicle. He  
notes that there is opposition  
from groups in the city. For  
the Urban Development Insti-  
tute, representing large down-  
town, recently came out  
in support of the bike path net-  
work.

owntown  
founder of Ecology  
November 4 municipal  
elections in NDG, agrees that we  
need the bicycle as a transport  
mode that in Holland one-  
third of journeys are made  
by bicycle. In cities like Palo Alto,  
California, laws requiring  
new developments to provide shower fa-  
cilities to encourage bi-

at 60 per cent of all air  
pollution from cars. "It's a very bad  
situation at the percentage of air  
pollution from cars has risen in the

s a three-step program  
to transform the downtown core to private  
use, a shift towards public  
transport and car-pools. The first

phase would see a few selected streets  
being made off-limits to cars.

For example, Ste. Catherine could  
become a pedestrian mall with a bike  
path. Bus-only lanes would be created,  
while more parking spaces would be cre-  
ated at Métro stations on the fringes of  
downtown to allow drivers to leave their  
cars behind.

The second phase would see the con-  
struction of light rail transit (LRT) lines  
along some of the streets closed to private  
traffic. Ritchie maintains that LRT lines  
would be less polluting, more efficient,  
and faster than automobiles.

LRT would also be far less expensive  
and far more accessible to the elderly and  
handicapped than the Metro. Ritchie  
points out that Calgary's new LRT ser-  
vice cost one-eighth as much per kilometre  
as an underground subway line.

The final three year phase of the plan  
would see private car traffic entirely  
phased out of the downtown core. Only  
local residents would be able to bring cars  
into their areas of residence.

"These remaining cars should burn  
clean fuels such as propane, natural gas,  
methane, or even hydrogen if the technol-  
ogy is available," Ritchie says.

Ritchie recognizes that there will be  
opposition to such a plan, since it requires  
taking space away from cars. He responds  
that we'll just have to get used to this if we  
are going to create room. He adds, "Two  
buses can move 130 people. By car it  
would take a street four lanes wide and  
three blocks long to move the same  
amount. Who's taking up the space?"

Some members of the business com-  
munity fear that people will stop coming  
downtown if cars are eliminated. Ritchie  
says this has not happened in cities like  
Rome, Milan, Bologna, or Amsterdam  
which have severely limited the use of  
private cars.

In fact, he argues that the downtown  
would become more dynamic and more  
pleasant, it would be quicker and easier to  
get to, and the air would be cleaner.  
"Imagine Ste. Catherine as a pedestrian  
mall - it would be filled with people."

## Stopping Urban Sprawl

Revitalizing the downtown core is also  
related to the problem of urban sprawl.  
The vision of a dynamic, compact city  
based on ecological lines conflicts with  
the present trend to low density sprawl.

Michael Fish, a Montréal architect and  
journalist, argues that we need to impose  
a form on the city if we are to achieve  
sustainable development in Montréal.  
This requires making the city more com-  
pact and directing development so that  
people live closer to their work. "Above  
all, it's a planning problem," says Fish.

He believes the present trend of low-  
density suburban development is "going  
in the opposite way of what's required for  
an ecologically acceptable city."

Density limits are too low, he argues.  
In fact, people in the suburbs are looking  
for near-zero density. He adds that people  
in urban areas should be living in mul-  
tiple-family dwellings. "There's no need  
for any more single family housing in  
North America within city limits," says  
Fish.

Part of the challenge is to achieve  
higher densities without creating a  
highrise jungle. Downtown Montréal's

three-storey row-houses are offered as an  
example of human-scale housing at a  
much higher density than that found in the  
suburbs.

The Montréal area's expansion has  
come at the expense of vast amounts of  
farmland. Re-zoning agricultural land is  
the "easiest money you can make in our  
society," according to Fish.

Friends of politicians buy up agricul-  
tural land, have it re-zoned and reap huge  
profits as the land skyrockets in value.  
Fish believes the City of Montréal should  
fight any such re-zoning around the  
Montréal area to reverse the flow of de-  
velopment away from the city core.

Silverman agrees that suburban devel-  
opment presents serious problems for the  
environment. "The suburbs are the crea-  
tion of the car and the enemy of urbanity",  
he states.

Bicycles are less viable for the long  
distances in the suburbs, while public  
transit is less practical due to the low  
density. Ironically people become de-  
pendent on the automobile. "The car  
seems like freedom," Silverman says,  
"but it masks a form of slavery."

## Revitalizing the City Core

"We need to look at why people move  
out to the suburbs," states Ian Ritchie. He  
believes that part of the reason, along with  
the high cost of living downtown, is that  
people are looking for clean air, trees, and

green space. Making the downtown more  
liveable would help stop the flow to the  
suburbs.

One idea he proposes is that we take  
advantage of Montréal's many flat roofs  
to develop roof-top gardens. "The tech-  
nology already exists," he says. Creating  
such gardens would not only add green  
space, but also make the air cleaner and  
encourage people to stay downtown.

Flat-roofs would also be ideal, accord-  
ing to Ritchie, for new cost-effective solar  
water-heating systems and photovoltaic  
panels. These could radically decrease  
our dependence on Hydro Quebec for  
domestic electricity.

Professor Lustiger-Thaler suggests  
that we need a 'holistic' strategy in order  
to revitalize inner-city neighborhoods  
and improve the quality of life. Social and  
economic needs would have to be consid-  
ered along with ecological ones. This  
would involve measures to protect afford-  
able housing. It also requires keeping  
people close to their workplace by creat-  
ing jobs for which local residents have  
qualifications.

"But it's not enough to create jobs at a  
local incinerator," he states, emphasizing  
the need to link environmental concerns  
with economic and social issues.

## Growing Political Scope

Professor Lustiger-Thaler sees mu-  
nicipal political institutions playing a

much broader role in the future.  
Montréal's nuclear free-zone declaration  
symbolizes a growing jurisdiction for  
local governments. Unlike the issue of  
nuclear disarmament, however, cities can  
do much more about ecological issues  
than just taking a symbolic stand.

John Symon, of the Plateau Mile-End  
Recycling Committee, says the City must  
be prepared to make enemies as it tackles  
a wider range of ecological issues.

"The City is like a turtle," says Symon,  
"it will never make progress until it sticks  
its neck out." He sees possibilities for a  
wide range of policies to promote more  
ecologically sound practices and atti-  
tudes.

One simple proposal is the establish-  
ment of an Ecology House, which the City  
could set up and environmental groups  
could operate. It could act as an informa-  
tion clearing house that citizens could  
turn to for environmental advice on ques-  
tions such as toxic waste disposal or en-  
ergy conservation.

As municipal governments see their  
jurisdiction expanding, the importance of  
urban political movements like Ecology  
Montréal rises. The real challenge, ac-  
cording to Professor Lustiger-Thaler, is to  
build an ecological movement in the city  
with a broad political and social perspec-  
tive.

This, he adds, is "the politics of the  
year 2000."





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## Elections McGill

### POLL LOCATIONS — FEEQ REFERENDUM '90 ASUS VP Admin. By-election

	Tuesday Oct. 23	Wednesday Oct. 24	Thursday Oct. 25
1) Bishop Mountain Hall	11-13:30 16:30-19	16:30-19	
2) Bronfman	11-17:00	10-16:00	10-16:00
3) Burnside Basement		10-16:00	10-16:00
4) Chancellor Day Hall		10-16:00	10-16:00
5) Dentistry & Anatomy		10-16:00	10-16:00
6) Education		10-16:00	10-16:00
7) Leacock	11-16:00	10-16:00	10-16:00
8) McConnell	11-16:00	10-16:00	10-16:00
9) McIntyre		10-16:00	10-14:00
10) Music		10-16:00	10-16:00
11) Redpath	11-19:00	10-19:00	10-16:00
12) Royal Victoria College		11:30-13:30 16:30-18:30	
13) Stewart-Biology		10-16:00	10-16:00
14) Thomson House	12-19:00	12-19:00	12-16:00
15) Union Building	11-19:00	10-19:00	10-16:00
16) Gym		12-17:00	12-16:00

Denise Lai  
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## EVENT HIGHLIGHT

Tonight at 8:30 in the Union Ballroom the Wrath of Grapes Support Group is holding its second annual Halloween Grape Stomp to encourage support for the international boycott of California grapes.

This benefit concert will feature Bag of Hammers, Nyetz and the Ballad Mongers, and Rhythm Activism, who will perform for the first time a song they have written especially for the grape boycott.

The show is the mid-point in a series of campus awareness events about the boycott called by the United Farm Workers of America, the union representing the workers who pick the grapes.

The UFW asks consumers to boycott California grapes until the growers stop using the five most dangerous pesticides used in the growing of grapes—Phosdrin, Captan, Dinoseb, Parathion and Methyl Bromide. These pesticides have been shown in laboratory tests and other studies to cause disturbingly high levels of cancer and birth defects in children. Methyl bromide is responsible for the most occupationally-related deaths in California.

Now in its sixth year, the grape boycott has gained broad support across North America from a wide spectrum of organizations, including most major churches, the mayor of Montreal, and the cities of San Francisco, Boston, Toronto, and Hamilton. On campus, the boycott is endorsed by the Students' Society of McGill University, the Post-Graduate Students' Society, the Arts and Science Undergraduate Society, and the Engineering Undergraduate Society.

In two weeks, the McGill Senate will be asked to endorse the boycott. We need your support now. Come to the benefit (tickets \$4 at Sadies, \$6 at the door). Sign our petitions. For more information, call 398-7432.

## Pillar well-pilloried

To the Dally:

When are people going to stop writing hate mail to Colin Krivy and realise that maybe, just maybe, there was more than a glimmer of truth in his review of the *Pillar*?

The article was not a condemnation, nor was it so crude as to be described as "disgustingly tasteless and pathetic". The venomous letter-writers seem to be concerned only with Krivy's form. Apparently they have not noticed that the material was in fact amateurish and that at least two negatives were printed backwards, giving the magazine a look that was overall less than professional.

Perhaps the organisers of the *Pillar* should have taken longer to compile and circulate their product - we would have had to wait, but the magazine might have been better received. In response to the question "Who is this Colin Krivy...?" in the 15 October

*Daily*, I would think that a playwright who has turned out scripts worthy of winning the McGill Drama Festival for the past three years knows what he's talking about.

Jennifer Raiston  
UI Arts

## "I'm a male feminist"

To the Dally:

I feel very uneasy about the Women's Union approach to combatting sexism. You see, I am a male feminist.

I believe in equality of the sexes as a fundamental principle of human existence. Moreover, I would like to help make sure that the condition of women in society is ameliorated. The Women's Union, however, at McGill does not seem to want my help. With its female only membership policy, it is doing something that male chauvinists have done forever - it is creating barriers. That is exactly what we don't need.

I do not deny that sexual barriers exist in society and that women get the short end of the stick. Does this mean, however, that in the struggle for gender equality, we need to reinforce these barriers?

We must all work together to ameliorate women's condition. Just because I am male, does it mean that I cannot be part of the struggle? To be sure, not all women themselves believe in gender equality - there are female 'male chauvinists'.

I think that the input of men could help the Women's Union in getting new insights on how to combat sexism in society and also help to find a more rounded, universal approach to solving this problem. I am hurt by the fact the Women's Union thinks that the oppression of women in our society is only a woman's issue.

Arjun Singh  
U3 Arts

P.S. I would really like to hear the opinions of others on this issue. I see my views as open to modification and would like to contribute to dialogue on the subject.

## FEEQ fans speak

To the Dally:

This week, McGill Students' Society will decide whether or not to join the Fédération des Étudiants et Étudiantes du Québec (FEEQ). Every student has the opportunity to cast a vote during this referendum.

Unlike the views expressed in the *Daily* "comment" of October 22, we believe that membership in FEEQ is an unproblematic and reasonable proposition for McGill students. FEEQ's response to the recent tuition fee hike has been more than adequate.

Instead of blind opposition to the fee hikes, FEEQ's "New Partnership" is a progressive alternative that puts the burden of paying for higher education on all who benefit from it - government, corporations and students, without affecting accessibility on financial grounds.

While *Daily* editors may claim that this will not touch accessibility problems grounded in social and cultural conditions, suffice it to say that the European experience has shown that free tuition doesn't solve these problems either.

It is indeed unfortunate that the benefits McGill students will enjoy from being a member of a unified student movement are being threatened by PGSS' decision to put McGill internal politics ahead of building such a movement. Graduates' opposition is to SSMU, and not to FEEQ, as your page 3 interview with Denis Verrette, president of RACSQ, clearly states. Is this really a reason to halt the building of a unified student movement?

FEEQ's decision to solidify its membership now is indeed opportune. ANEEQ, FEEQ's "elder counterpart" is not "in a period of fragmentation and reform"; rather, it is in a state of total paralysis. This is an organization without an executive, an organization whose Central Committee hasn't met since March, and is being boycotted by its two largest members, AGEUQAM and CUSA.

To put off a referendum campaign while this ragged association hovers between life and death would be folly. It's time to forget about ANEEQ, and build a new organisation that will accurately reflect and represent university students: that organisation is FEEQ.

Alex Usher, BA U3  
Karla MacDonald, BEd U3  
Mary-Margaret Jones, BA U2  
Robert Fabes, Law U3  
Cameron Young, Law U4  
Lina Salgot, BA U3  
Joanna Wedge, BA U3  
Kate Morrissey, BA U3  
David Messenger, BA U2

Ed note. Several of the authors of this letter are members of the official SSMU 'Yes' committee on the FEEQ referendum and/or of the SSMU executive.

## EVENTS THIS WEEKEND

Today

The Graduate Program in Communications presents "Semiotics and Communications: Sous les Signes, la Stratégie", a talk given by Ann Henault at 3465 Peel at 16h.

The McGill International Development Students' Association presents a discussion series Thursdays at 19h in Burnside 426. This week: "What is development anyway?" Call 286-0802 to find out more about the beer and pizza they'll have available.

The Québec Public Interest Research Group is holding a candidates' debate for the municipal elections at 19h in Leacock 232. Information can be had at 398-7432.

The Burning Times, a new Studio D documentary about witches and witchcraft will be shown at 19h and 21h in room H110 of the Hall Building of Concordia U. Call for info at 496-2314.

The McGill Film Society is showing *Godzilla and the Smog Monster* at 19h30 in Leacock 132. Wow.

Friday, October 26

The McGill Women's Union is presenting a talk on bulimia with guest Kathie Blackie as part of Eating Disorder Awareness Week from 12h to 13h.

WUSC McGill is having a meeting about the 1991 Student Seminar in Botswana in room 410 of the Union building from 13h to 14h. You can get more information, but you have to call 286-3974.

The Students for Global Responsibility are having a meeting at 17h in Union 410. All welcome. For info, call 284-4257.

The McGill Film Society presents *Valmont* in the FDA auditorium at 19h30.

McGill Theatresports presents improvised comedy at 22h, or after the play in Players Theatre. Most laughs for a buck.

Saturday, October 27

The NDG Senior Citizens' Council is holding a fundraising book sale. It goes from 10h to 16h in Dewey Hall, Rosedale United Church. That's at 6870 Terrebonne Ave. (corner of Mariette in NDG).

Sunday, October 28

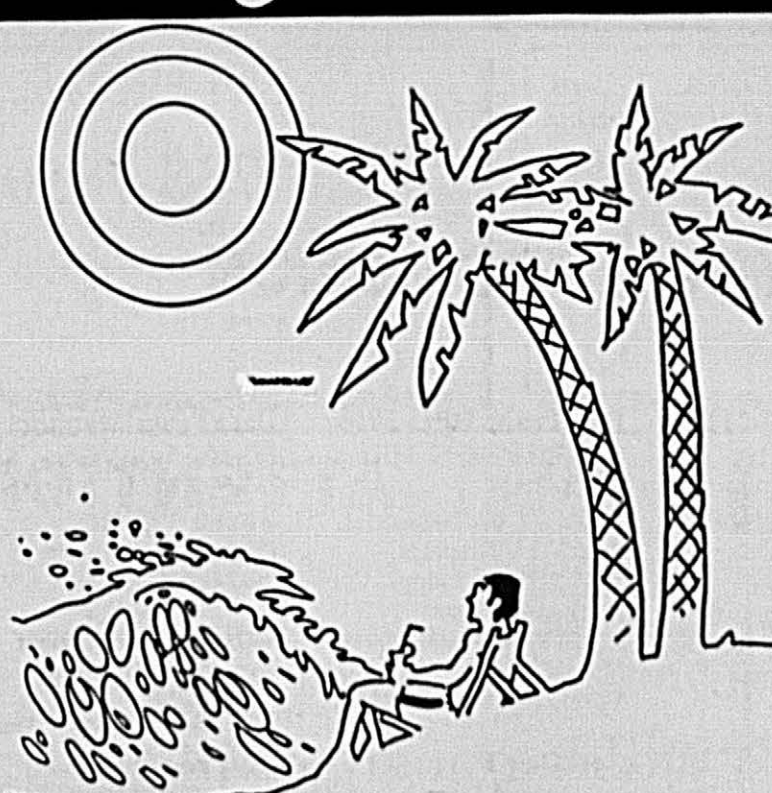
A Mohawk Benefit Performance Evening will be happening at ONYX, 2958 boul. St-Laurent, starting at 19h; price is \$5/\$3, and you can find out why and what for at 842-7509.

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**Renault 5 for sale.** 1983, white sun roof, good condition. \$500. Call Christian or Andrea 274-8512.

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### 372 - Lost & Found

**Lost - my eyeglasses in the biology library on** Sunday, the 21st. Blue & black frames. \$20 reward! Let me see again! 482-3360 or Physical Plant.

### 374 - Personals

**A western educated bilingual Togolese age 45** seeks a Canadian-French-German-Philippino for a serious relationship/marriage. Interested write: Box 1706, New Canaan, Ct. 06840-1706, USA.

**Is your closet getting too small? Gays and** Lesbians of McGill offers an information/counseling talkline. Call with questions, problems or just to talk. Phone 398-6822 or drop by Union 417 M-F, 7-10.

**Counting sheep? Call us instead! We'd love to** hear from you at 398-6248. McGill Nightline. We're not just a crisis line. 6 pm - 3 am nightly.

**Single male seeks male companion.** Serious inquiries only at 482-3452 Jason C.

**Kathy, it was 6 months ago, April 25th,** and I've loved you more every day.

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### 385 - Notices

**Gays and Lesbians of McGill** offers an information and counselling talkline. Call us with questions, problems or just to talk. Phone 398-6822 or drop by Union 417 M-F, 7-10.

**Lesbian/Gay discussion group held Fridays at** The Yellow Door Coffee House (3625 Aylmer) at 17h30.

**Sopranos, Tenors, Basses** are needed for McGill Choral Society. repertoire: Rutter's Gloria, PDQ Bach's Seasonings, and others. Rehearsal Wednesday 19h30 in Strathcona Music Building C310.

**Oliver, as the deadline approacheth! Oct. 31st** shall see the doors to The Red Herring office slam shut, and pleading contributors huddled by the door-frame shall be shunned.

**Landlord/tenant? Family? Consumer law? If** you need help sorting out your legal problems call or drop by the McGill Legal Information Clinic - M-Fri/10-5 pm - 398-6792 - Rooms B20, B21 & B01B of the student union building! We're here for you!

**Gay and Lesbians of McGill 1st beer garden** this Thursday 7 pm - 10 pm. Room 425 Union.

### Montreal Antiquarian Book Fair

Forty booksellers from across North America. Rare and out-of-print books, maps, manuscripts, postcards. Come browse or buy. Saturday, Sunday, October 27-28. Hotel Maritime, 1155 Guy, two blocks from the metro.

**Did you know it's eating disorder week? Attend** a video showing and discussion on bulimia led by feminist psychologist Kathie Blackie. Friday Oct. 26, 12-1 pm. Union 423 (Women's Union).

### 389 - Musicians wanted

**Drummer wanted for jamming and occasional** show. Place on campus to jam and leave equipment. Police, Van Morrison, Blues Brothers, that kinda stuff. Andrew 684-4549.

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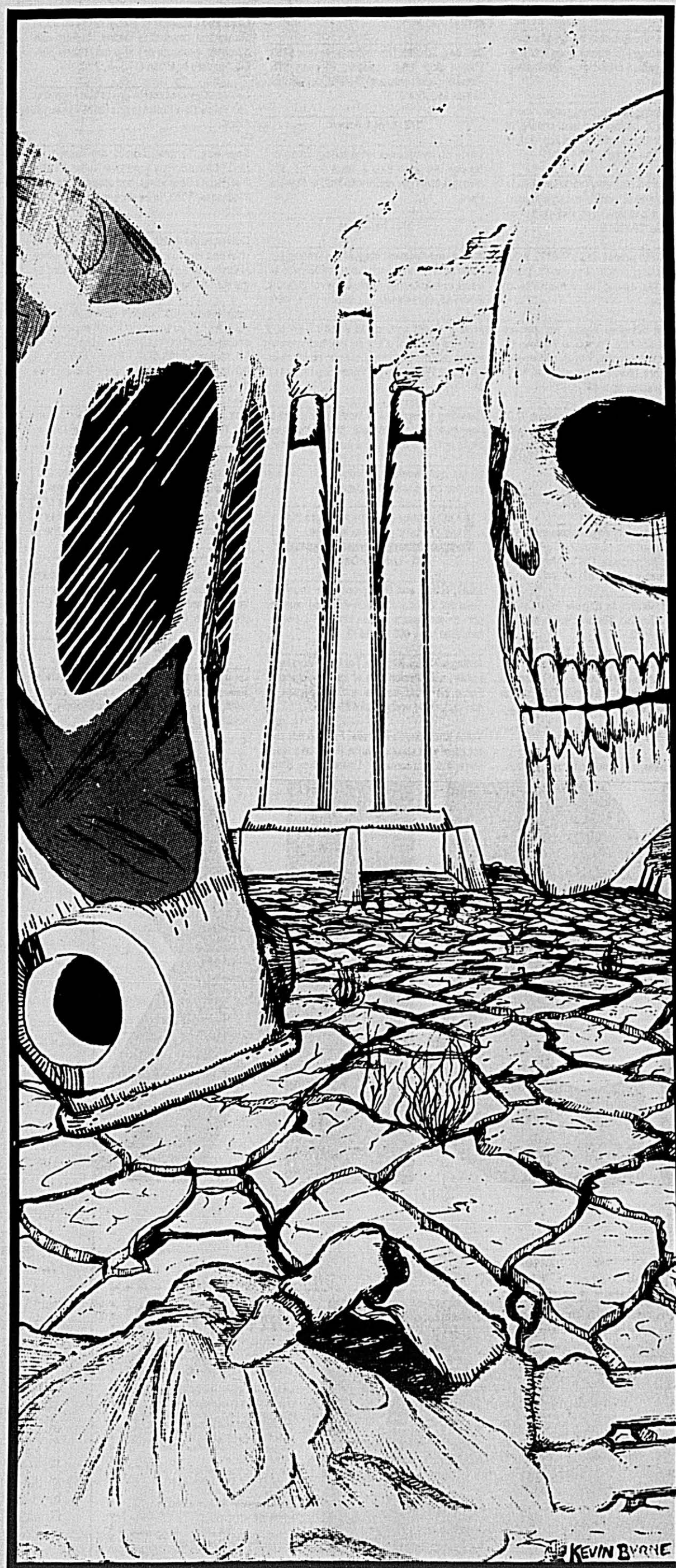


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## COMMENT

# Ecomania

Environmental concerns have become central to the political agenda of most industrial countries, as the ill effects of unbridled industrial production and economic growth become more noticeable.

But despite the recent, more horrific outcomes of our consumer-industrial complex, discussion of change has been confined to the political traditions we have inherited.

Thus the largely reformist environmental movement, standing in a long liberal tradition, has felt little remorse at having their policies co-opted by business. 'Green consumerism' has been given a nod of approval by some larger environmental organizations (Pollution Probe, for example) and tremendous, unqualified support by a business community fast realizing their policies and modes of production may be incompatible with the will of their customers.

Others have seen the opportunity for expanding their customer base, and a growth industry has developed out of the cultivation of a popular misconception that the reduction of a problem equals the solution to the problem.

Green packaging, green toilet paper and green all purpose cleaners simply are not sufficient. Green gasoline, green garbage bags and green Big Macs are simply lies. 'Doing your own little bit' simultaneously confirms a self-centred, consumerist ethic and negates communal discussion of affairs that need common discussion among all members of society.

The demands of mass production and 'international competitiveness' on the world's natural resistance throw serious doubt on the ability of the current system to improve its environmental record through reductive technological measures.

The high prices of 'environmentally friendly' goods threaten both international relations and the living standards of the poor. More technology, even if 'cleaner', means greater concentration of capital, resulting in greater disparity both between the rich and poor within countries, and between rich and poor countries.

Change will happen regardless of what we do. Either environmental deterioration will force change of more catastrophic dimensions in the future, or a well-formulated and decisive program will be constructed and implemented in accord with the desires of the peoples and ecosystems of the planet.

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